

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

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*B7 Sub C7*  
1. (Twice Amended) A method for reducing the tendency of paper to curl in a drying section of a paper machine, comprising drying a paper web by pressing the web against heated faces of a plurality of drying cylinders in the drying section of a paper machine,

applying a sufficient amount of steam in a steam treatment onto the entire width of the paper web in the drying section such that tensions that have been formed or that tend to be formed in the fiber mesh are relaxed by means of heat and moisture from the steam in the area of their formation or thereafter,

applying said steam treatment to an open face of the paper web as it runs on a wire in a suction sector of a suction roll or cylinder in said drying section and in an area of said drying section where the dry solids content of the paper web is from about 70 to about 98 percent, and

promoting the penetration of said steam treatment into the paper web in a direction of the thickness of the paper web by means of suction present on said suction sector.

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*B7 Sub C7*  
8. (Twice Amended) A drying section of a paper machine, comprising

at least one drying section group comprising a plurality of drying cylinders for drying a paper web, said drying cylinders each having a heated surface,

a drying wire running in a meandering fashion over said drying cylinders, said drying wire pressing the paper web against said heated surfaces of said drying cylinders,

at least one steam box arranged in said drying group and comprising a counter-face which, together with a free face of the

paper web, defines a contact-free steam-treatment gap in said drying group, said steam box extending substantially across an entire transverse width of the paper web,

said steam box applying steam substantially across an entire width of the paper web such that steam tensions that have been formed or that tend to be formed in the fiber mesh of the paper web are relaxed by means of heat and moisture in the area of their formation or substantially immediately thereafter, and said steam box applying steam to the paper web during [in] the run of the paper web on a wire through the drying section such that a moisture profile in a direction of thickness of the paper web is controlled and the tendency of the paper web to curl is prevented in the run of the paper web through the drying section.

Claim 10, line 1, change "9" to --8--.

12. (Amended) The drying section of claim 10, wherein said drying section group has a single-wire draw in which steam is applied to the paper web running on the wire, said drying cylinders being arranged [as] in an upper row [,] and said wire guide rolls and/or leading cylinders [are] being arranged in a lower row below said drying cylinders.

14. (Amended) The drying section of claim [10] 8, wherein said drying section group has a twin-wire draw, said steam box being [fitted] arranged to apply the steam treatment to one side of the paper web as the web runs [as a free draw] from one of said drying cylinders to another of said drying cylinders.

Claim 16, line 3, after "98", insert --percent--.

*Sub C*

18. (Amended) A method for reducing the tendency of paper to curl in a drying section of a paper machine, comprising drying a paper web by pressing the web against heated faces of a plurality of drying cylinders in the drying section of a paper machine,

applying a sufficient amount of steam in a steam treatment onto the entire width of the paper web in the drying section such that tensions that have been formed or that tend to be formed in the fiber mesh are relaxed by means of heat and moisture from the steam in the area of their formation or thereafter,

arranging said drying cylinders in an upper row and a lower row,

arranging [a] suction [roll] rolls or [cylinder] cylinders in [a lower row] gaps between said drying cylinders in said upper row and said lower row,

applying said steam treatment to a free [draws] draw of the paper web located between said upper row and said lower row of said drying cylinders, and

applying steam onto at least one side [or onto both sides] of the paper web.

*Sub C*

22. (Amended) A method for reducing the tendency of paper to curl in a drying section of a paper machine, comprising drying a paper web by pressing the web against heated faces of a plurality of drying cylinders in the drying section of a paper machine,

applying a sufficient amount of steam in a steam treatment onto the entire width of the paper web in the drying section such that tensions that have been formed or that tend to be formed in the fiber mesh are relaxed by means of heat and moisture from the steam in the area of their formation or thereafter,

applying said steam treatment to an open face of the paper web

as it runs on a wire in a suction sector of a suction roll or cylinder located at an end of said drying section, and

promoting the penetration of said steam treatment into the paper web in a direction of the thickness of the paper web by means of suction present on said suction sector.

Please add the following new claims:

13 23. The drying section of claim 9<sup>10</sup>, wherein said suction-leading cylinder has an interior portion and an outer perforated and grooved mantle, whereby suction in the interior of said suction-leading cylinder is spread onto a circumference of said suction-leading cylinder to thereby promote penetration of steam into the paper web.

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24. The drying section of claim 10, further comprising blow boxes for blowing air into spaces defined between said drying wire and said leading cylinders.

15 9  
25. The drying section of claim 10, further comprising at least one inverted drying section group in which drying cylinders are arranged in a lower row and wire guide rolls and/or leading cylinders are arranged in a upper row above said drying cylinders, said at least one inverted drying section group being arranged adjacent to said at least one drying section group.

16 15  
26. The drying section of claim 25, wherein the web is transferred from a wire in said at least one drying section group to a wire in said at least one inverted drying section group as a closed draw.

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27. The method of claim 1, further comprising blowing air into spaces defined between the wire and said suction roll or